

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 1-9 were pending in this application. Claims 1-3 stand rejected, and claims 4-9 were objected to as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 4-9 are amended herein, and claims 1-3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. No new matter has been added.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements thereto. A substitute specification and abstract including the revisions have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Also submitted herewith are marked-up copies of the substitute specification and abstract indicating the changes incorporated therein.

The Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 4-9 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims. In view of this indication, claims 4, 8 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim (previously pending claim 1) and any intervening claims (previously pending claims 2 and 3 were incorporated into claims 8 and 9, respectively).


Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kraemer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,203) (hereinafter referred to as "Kraemer"). Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraemer. However, claims 1-3 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 3, and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 2 have been obviated.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Fabio Giovanni Fedele COLOMBO

By: 
Kevin McDermott
Registration No. 48,113
Attorney for Applicant

KM/WDH/lq
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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